

ABSTRACT

Provided is a process of obtaining 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoro-2-propanol ("HFIP") from a composition comprising an HFIP hydrolyzable precursor. The HFIP hydrolyzable precursor is a compound, other than sevoflurane itself, that has an intact 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoroisopropoxy moiety[(CF₃)₂CHO—], and contains one or more moieties susceptible to acidic hydrolysis, such that HFIP is released upon such treatment. The process is useful, among other things, for recovering HFIP from waste streams associated with the synthesis of the inhalation anesthetic, fluoromethyl 2,2,2-trifluoro-1-(trifluoromethyl)ethyl ether ("sevoflurane"). The process includes heating the composition with a strong protic acid to a temperature effective to hydrolyze at least some of the HFIP hydrolyzable precursor to HFIP, and then isolating the HFIP from the heated composition.